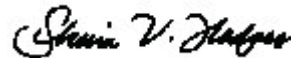




Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a)(1)(A)(i), unless otherwise specified by a rule or statute, a defendant must serve an answer within 21 days after being served with the summons and complaint. Therefore, the date of service of process, and not the date of the order directing service, is the relevant date for determining when the time for responding to a complaint begins to run. In the instant case, Defendants served their answer seven days after service was effected and are not in default. Accordingly, it is recommended that Plaintiff's motion for an entry of default [Entry #15] be denied.

IT IS SO RECOMMENDED.



March 21, 2011  
Florence, South Carolina

Shiva V. Hodges  
United States Magistrate Judge

**The parties are directed to note the important information in the attached  
“Notice of Right to File Objections to Report and Recommendation.”**